



SPILL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING POLICY

I. CONTAINMENT AND CLEANUP

All releases or spills of hazardous or deleterious substances or other wastes, regardless of size, must be properly and expeditiously managed, contained, and removed to protect public health and the environment. This policy is written to provide guidance to the public about when and how to report spills. This policy is intended to assist in the implementation of the following Montana laws and the administrative rules adopted thereunder: Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act (§75-10-701, *et seq.*, MCA); Hazardous Waste Act (§75-10-401 *et seq.*, MCA); Solid Waste Management Act (§75-10-201, *et seq.*, MCA); Underground Storage Tank Act (§75-11-501, *et seq.*, MCA); and the Water Quality Act (§75-5-101, *et seq.*, MCA).

II. MONTANA DEQ NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Releases and spills must be reported immediately to the state's Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) 24-hour phone number (406) 431-0411. If no one can be reached at that number, the release or spill may be reported to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) duty officer at (406) 431-0014. **Notification to the National Response Center (NRC) may also be required. NRC can be reached at 800-424-8802. DEQ and DES are not responsible for making this notification.**

A. The following types of spills **must** be reported:

- Releases or spills of hazardous substances in amounts that meet or exceed reportable quantities as set out in 40 CFR Part 302. Notification to the DES and NRC is required.
- Spills, overfills, and suspected releases from underground storage tanks and petroleum storage tanks. *ARM 17.56.501, et seq.*
- Releases or spills of any materials that would lower the quality of groundwater below water quality standards. *ARM 17.30.1045.*

B. The following types of spills **should** be reported:

- Spills that enter or may enter state water or a drainage that leads directly to surface water;
- Spills that cause sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water, streambanks or shorelines;
- Spills that cause a film, "sheen", or change the color of the water, streambanks or shorelines; or
- All other spills except as noted in C.

C. The following types of spills **are not required** to be reported provided they do not enter surface water or a drainage that leads directly to surface water:

- Spills of ten barrels (420 gallons) or less of crude oil, produced water, injection water, or combination thereof that occur on property leased for the purpose of oil and gas exploration; or
- Spills of twenty-five (25) gallons or less of refined crude oil products, including but not limited to gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, asphalt, road oil, kerosene, fuel oil, and derivatives of mineral, animal, or vegetable oils.

For additional information, contact:

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Enforcement Division

Phone (406) 444-0379

Fax (406) 444-1923